

K-351

The Townsend Building
Spring Street, Chestertown
c. 1840

Soon after establishing his mercantile business on the first floor of the Masonic Hall, Thomas W. Eliason purchased parts of lots Nos. 42 and 48 along with the "Club House Lot" across Club Lane (now Spring Avenue).¹ Eleven years earlier, James Mansfield had acquired the same, for which he paid \$300 – not enough to have represented a substantial dwelling at the time.² The purchase price of \$1510 paid by Eliason, however, probably reflects either a newly constructed or greatly improved building on the property at the time of that transaction.

The house which Mr. Eliason purchased consisted of a three bay, two story frame section with an addition out the rear. The plan was typical of the period with central stairhall, two flanking rooms and a two story, two room wing in the back. There were most likely entry and rear porches attached to the house in its original configuration. On both the 1860 map and in the 1877 Atlas, T. W. Eliason is listed as owner. In the latter, the plan appears to be more of a 'T' plan than the 'L' which exists today. In the back yard there was a brick meat house with steeply pitched 'A' roof, which had a batten door with an overall wrought nail pattern.

Sometime after the death of T. W. Eliason in 1893, the house was moved, remodeled and enlarged by its new owner. The enlargement details and especially the semi-octagonal dormer above the new projected entrance resemble closely the design of the dormer of the residence of Walter T. Pippin, a well known Chestertown designer/contractor. At one time the

house was the home of Dr. Benge Simmonds, a homeopathic doctor who photographically recorded Chestertown and its surrounding areas in the early 20th Century.

The original brick meat house remains on the Eliason lot and is numbered K-74 in the survey of Kent County.

1. Land Records, Lib. JNG 12, fol 436.
2. Land Records, Lib. JNG 5, fol. 512.

K35 Townsend Building
Chestertown
private

c. 1780

Hidden beneath the assorted added wings, dormers and minor ~~surface~~ surface alterations of the present Townsend ~~x~~ Building and turned 90 degrees to the south-east to further confuse the eye of the historian, is a handsome eighteenth century frame L wing dwelling, built about one hundred feet to the northwest around 1780. Its interest today is limited to those curious about the local history of the Spring Avenue block of Chestertown. In the mid and late nineteenth century, the building served as the residence of one of the town's most prominent citizens, Thomas W. Eliason, Sr.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MHT# 1503512211

K-351

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

K358

AND/OR COMMON

Townsend Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Corner Spring Avenue and Park Row

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

— DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

— STRUCTURE

— SITE

— OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

— PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

— BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

— IN PROCESS

— BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

— UNOCCUPIED

— WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

— YES: RESTRICTED

— YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

— AGRICULTURE

☒ COMMERCIAL

— EDUCATIONAL

— ENTERTAINMENT

— GOVERNMENT

— INDUSTRIAL

— MILITARY

— MUSEUM

— PARK

— PRIVATE RESIDENCE

— RELIGIOUS

— SCIENTIFIC

— TRANSPORTATION

— OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Park Row Venture

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Chestertown

CITY, TOWN

Maryland Chestertown

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md. 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Kent County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

JB Metcalfe

WHG 29/313

DATE

6/53

— FEDERAL — STATE ☒ COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

KC Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

MD

7 DESCRIPTION

K-357

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>??? early 1900</u> <u>late-19th-century</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Townsend Building is located near the corner of Spring Avenue and Park Row across from 106 Spring Avenue on the southeast side of the street in Chestertown.

Presently a multi-winged house which seems to have begun as an original L plan house, the Townsend Building has been radically altered several times in addition to having been moved about 75-100 feet southwest from its original position directly across from 108 Spring Avenue, the Eliason House and turned 90 degrees to the south so that its original front elevation now faces to the southwest (right). A brick outbuilding, perhaps associated with the original house (or its predecessor) remains on the old lot.

viewed from its original facade

As it stands today, the building is a 2½-story, 5 bay x 2 bay late eighteenth century frame house with a steep gabled roof, hipped on the southwest end to accommodate the L wing which extends to the rear from that end. ~~It is exceptionally long for its 4 bays~~ Its L wing which now faces onto Spring Avenue is four bays long.

The house sits on a low brick basement. The main entrance is now in a projecting bay, the second from the northeast gable end, of the L wing; the projecting bay becomes a 3-sided bay window on the second story and a 5-sided gabled dormer in the roof. The door is glass in its top half with two lateral panels below. There are stained glass sidelights/

The first story of the original facade has been covered by a shed-roofed addition which runs along its entire width. The second story has five 6/1 windows without louvered shutters. There are matching gabled Paladian gabled dormers on the roof.

The window arrangement on the L wing street facade is as follows: one windows on each story of the extreme northeast bay (left), both 6/1 without shutters; two pairs in the two southwest bays on each story, all 6/6, without shutters.

There is a box cornice with slight returns along the gable ends. The steep (60 deg.) roof is covered with wood shingles. There is a second dormer on the L wing roof, smaller than its partner associated with the entrance bay, with a hipped roof. It has one large window made up of four square panes whose mullions ~~make-4 make-~~ mark out St. George's crosses. There are no chimneys.

In the northeast gable end, there are two 6/1 windows on the first story and second stories and two smaller 6/1 attic windows in the gable.

The principal addition to the house appears to be a hipped roof wing which extends out and back from the rear of northeast gable end of the L wing, apparently to balance the original front section of the building. At some later date the U-space left between the original section of the building and the added wing was filled in by a low pitched gable roofed section; another with a flat roof has been added si

The entire building is covered with pre-dipped, grooved wood shingles.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-357

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		history of the immediate area

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1780

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of this building is pretty much limited to its role in the history of the Eliason property and family. Presumably the original form of this house was a late eighteenth century frame building 5 bays wide with an L wing squared to its left gable end--the whole building covered with wood clapboard. It is assumed this original building was built for James Claypoole sometime soon after 1781 when Claypoole bought the property from the Blakes for 22 L28 gold currency. The house was bought by Thomas W. Eliason in 1848 and was his residence for the rest of his life major portion of the rest of the century; his son lived across the street after 1876 in 108 Spring Avenue, the Eliason House.

How and when it picked up its various wings and dormers and when it was moved is presently impossible to determine.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

Begin on SE side Spring Ave. and running:

1. thence by and with lands of TW Eliason, S 46°00 min.E, 168.6' to an iron pipe.
2. thence by and w/Eliason lands, S43°38min.W, 30' to an iron pipe.
3. thence by and w/lands of Pippin Hotel lot (Ida Loller) the following:

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

- a. N48°47min.W, 42.8' to an iron pipe. b. S43°29minW, 72.8' to an iron pipe.
- c. N49°04minW, 46.5' to an iron pipe in line of lands of TW Eliason.
4. thence by and w/said Eliason lands: a. N 45°47minE, 6.0' to a point, b. N 44°13 minW, 78' to a point on SE side Spring Ave.
5. thence by and w/Spring: a. N 39°26 minE, 28' to a point. b. N 44°15 min.E, 70.1' to an iron pipe and point of beginning

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert Neill, Historic Site Surveyor

July 1976

ORGANIZATION

Md. Historical Trust/City of Chestertown

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

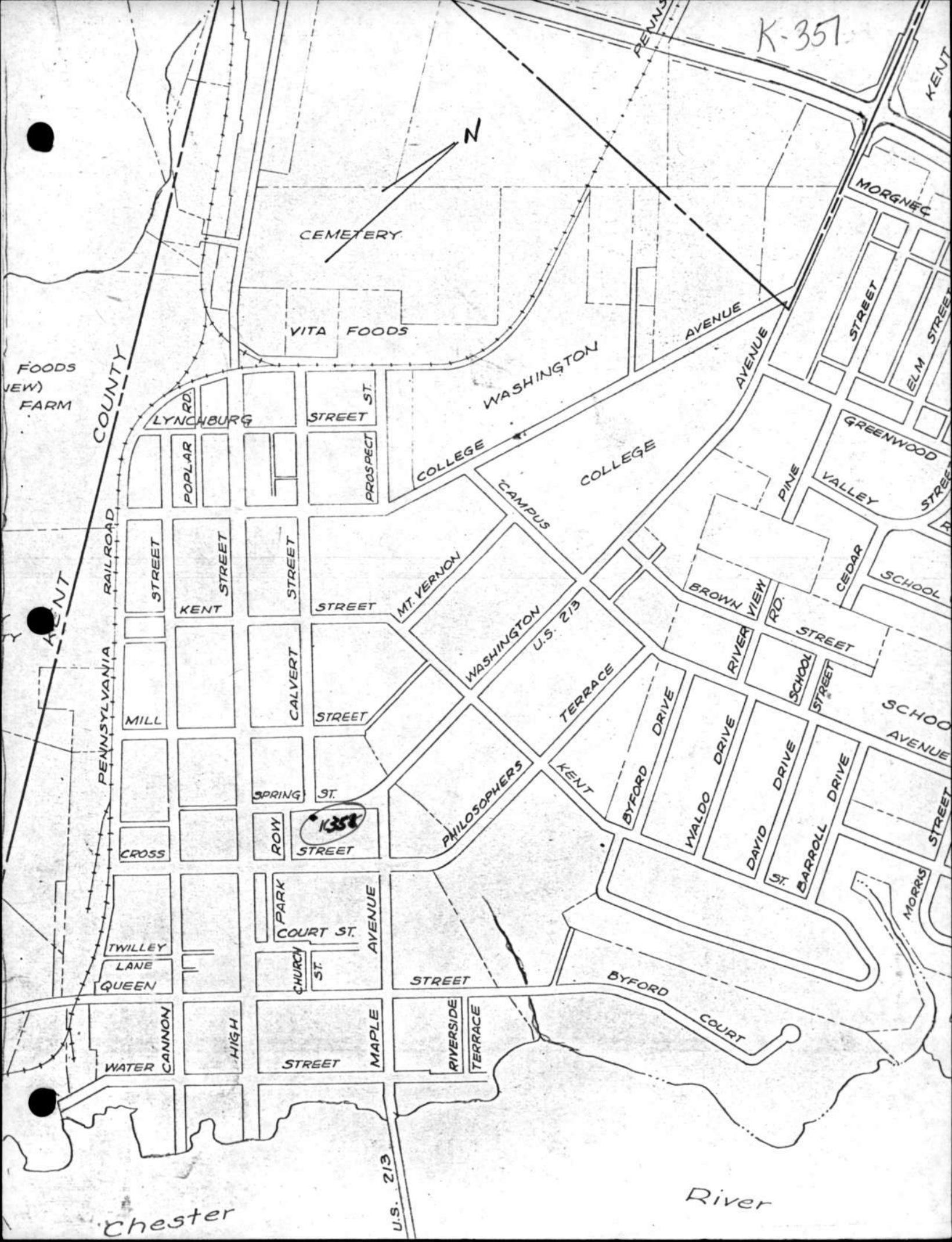
#s 10 and 11 by K.B.White

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

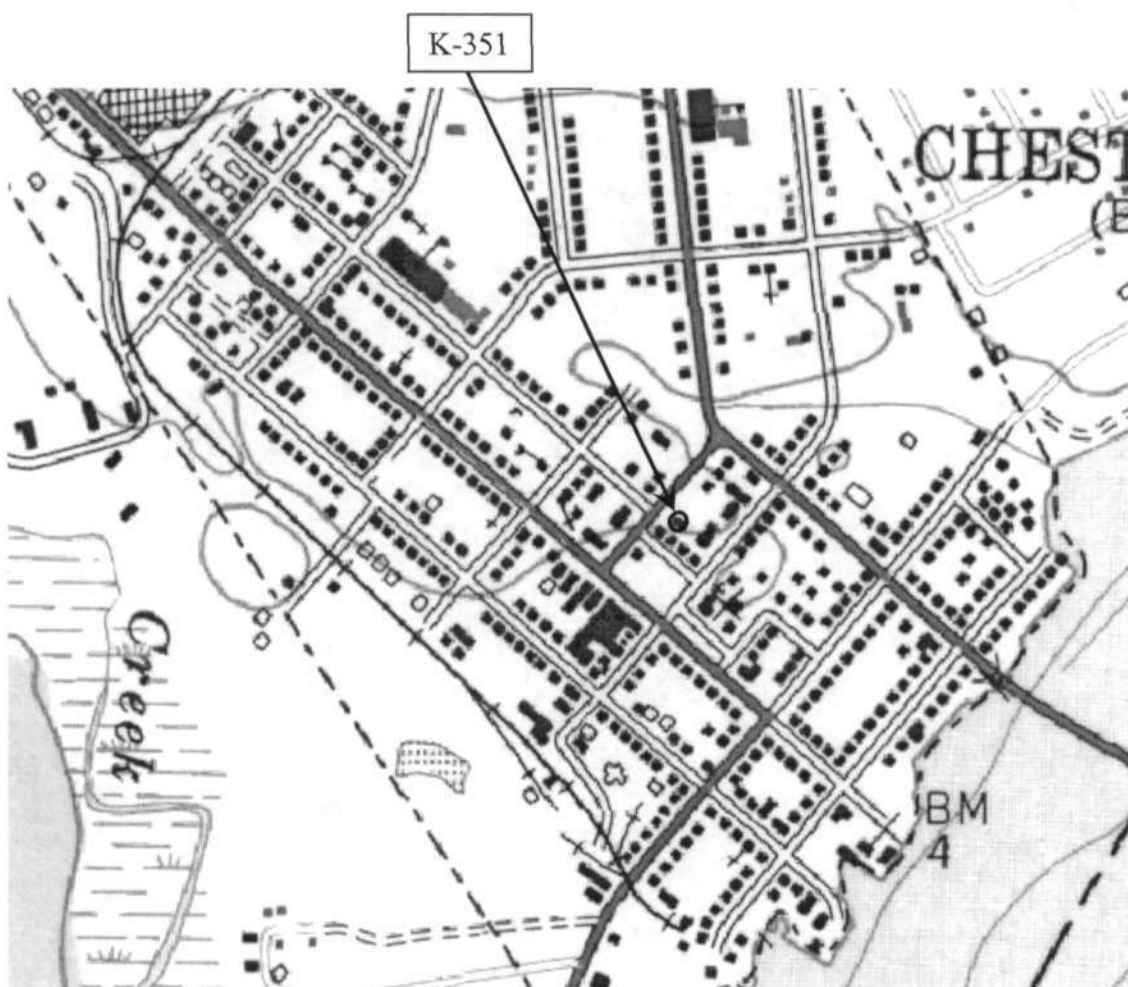
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

K-357





K-351
Townsend Building
Spring Ave. and Park Row
Chestertown
Chestertown Quad.
Kent County





Mansfield - Eliason House K-351

Chester town

M. Bowrie

1997

V Y



MANSFIELD - Eliason House K-251

Spring Ave

Chestertown

M. Bawne

Fall, 1997



K351 Townsend Bldg.
1/77 W & N

Mansfield Eliason House c. 1840

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
LIBRARY**

K-351 Townsend Bldg C.T.



K351 Townsend Bldg.
1/77 W

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
LIBRARY

K-351 Mansfield Eliason House (Townsend) c.1840